

of the Northern Marianas and the late Archbishop Felixberto Flores of Guam.

Pale' Ike's parents, Francisca Masga Ayuyu and the late Corbiniano Songao Ayuyu were also supportive of their son's path, which he recalls each time he celebrates mass with the chalice that was a gift from them.

In addition to his duties in the church, Pale' Ike is a strong advocate of, and a member of the Ecclesial Team for, our local chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter program, which is designed to strengthen couples' relationships with one another and with God. His involvement in Marriage Encounter has improved the lives of countless married couples in the Northern Marianas. In his typically unassuming and candid fashion, Pale' Ike explains to others that the program has even improved his relationship with the people to whom he ministers.

Spirituality has always been an important component of life in our islands, even before the arrival of what we think of as "organized religion." The Chamorros and Carolinians of our islands have always held spiritual leaders in high regard. In our small, faith-based community, local priests are in demand. Pale' Ike is a man whose work truly is never done. He baptizes the newly-born and conducts funeral rites for the recently departed; he tends to the spiritual needs of those who are homebound or in the hospital; he conducts weddings; he hears confessions; and he celebrates the Mass. Just a few of his Diocesan titles offer a glimpse into the scope of his responsibilities: he is the hospital chaplain, the coordinator of pre-baptismal seminars, and the coordinator of the marriage preparation program for the Diocese. Outside of traditional priestly responsibilities, in our culture if there is a village fiesta, he plays a lead role; if there is a large family party, he's expected to attend; if someone builds a new home, he is called upon to bless it before it is occupied. Pale' Ike is very much a part of the daily life of many residents of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Please join me in congratulating Pale' Isaac Masga Ayuyu in celebration of his twenty-five years in the priesthood.

HONORING COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cooperative Housing Corporation, located in Somerville, Somerset County,

New Jersey, as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Cooperative Housing Corporation (CHC) was created in 1986 to address the significant lack of affordable senior housing in central New Jersey. Its founders reasoned that affordable housing need not solely be a municipal burden, but that public/private partnerships could co-support it and foster conscionable development, preserving the aesthetics of community neighborhoods through Shared Living Arrangements for seniors.

It was soon realized that such housing, which would allow each resident to have their own bedroom/bathroom suite while sharing common areas, would also benefit special needs populations, particularly young, employable males. Therefore, the Mission of CHC became, "to provide older adults and some special needs populations with shared housing facilities and services especially designed to meet their physical, social and psychological needs on a cooperative family basis and, through the caring 'second family' environment, to promote their health, security, happiness and usefulness in longer living."

CHC opened the first of its seven houses on January 1, 1990, and since that date, has provided round the clock services, sustenance and housing to 157 individuals whose average income has been less than \$14,000 per year and whose average length of stay has been a remarkable six and a half years.

The elderly, no matter their physical, emotional or mental condition at the time of admission to any residential program, eventually "age in place" and, if frail, are often moved to more restrictive and costly-to-government settings. This reality of aging and new needs of CHC's own residents motivated initiation of innovative programming toward a host of services for this vulnerable population. The operating premise of CHC remains unique. As needs arise, CHC works to address them both innovatively and creatively; modifying program approach born through the reality of senior residents aging in place, from fully independent living to "Senior Affordable Supportive Housing" (SASH), of which there is no similar program in New Jersey.

The occasion of its 25th Anniversary, also marks CHC's transition into a new housing model from the 5 unit ensembles to 10 units. This allows CHC to serve additional lower income residents in a more cost-efficient manner, maximizing available public and private resources to address their increasing need for supportive services.

The Housing Partnership is commended for its innovative contributions, the creativity of its Founders, and the consistency and dedication of its Board and Staff through the years in helping to resolve the dilemma of affordable

housing for vulnerable populations in our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cooperative Housing Corporation on its 25th Anniversary.

HONORING DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Dennis Zieminski, the 2011 Sonoma Treasure Artist. An internationally known artist from Glenn Ellen, CA, Mr. Zieminski is also a prominent supporter of art events in the Sonoma Valley.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Dennis graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts before moving to New York for a successful career in illustration and painting. He worked with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times and has created compelling images for many high-profile clients such as Super Bowl XXIX, the Napa Mustard Festival, the Kentucky Derby, the California Railway Museum, and the San Francisco Zoo.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Dennis has had several solo exhibitions, won numerous awards, taught at prominent art schools, and illustrated well-known book covers. He has also volunteered his teaching skills at local schools and has donated auction paintings or created posters for local Sonoma Valley nonprofits.

Dennis's work is marked by fine draftsmanship and strong, richly colored images inspired by early 20th century painting and posters. He travels frequently to develop different ideas and sensibilities. "I love to paint my native California and the West," he says, "but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject . . . it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture, creating the desire to 'be there'."

Dennis is married to artist Anne Zieminski, and the couple's daughter, Sofia, attends the University of the Redlands.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to congratulate Dennis Zieminski for his designation as the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2011. Please join us and the Sonoma Valley Community in celebrating his accomplishments and contributions.